

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A driving device for a windshield wiper assembly of a motor vehicle comprising:

a housing;

an electric motor located in the housing connected with a rotating armature shaft having a first end portion and a second end portion;

a gear unit located in the housing with a worm located on an intermediate portion of the armature shaft;

a support bearing supporting one end of the armature shaft at the housing; and

an axial thrust generating device located on an opposite end of the armature shaft from the support bearing and possessing a tapered sliding member supported in the housing for movement in the radial direction relative to the armature shaft and supported against the armature shaft so that axial force can be applied to the armature shaft in the direction of the support bearing by moving the tapered sliding member, wherein the armature shaft is supported in a roller bearing with an inner race located on the armature shaft and an outer race located in one of a gear housing and in the motor housing.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The driving device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the roller bearing is located between the worm and the electric motor.

4. (Previously Presented) The driving device in accordance with claim 1 wherein the outer race is supported in the housing to be movable axially and wherein the tapered sliding member imparts an axial force to the outer race in the direction of the support bearing.

5. (Previously Presented) The driving device in accordance with claim 4 wherein the fixed inner race is attached to the armature shaft to transfer an axial force acting on the outer race to the armature shaft.

6. (Previously Presented) The driving device in accordance with claim 5 wherein a fixed thrust washer is located on the armature on the side of the roller bearing facing away from the tapered sliding member, the thrust washer contacting the inner race.

7. (Previously Presented) The driving device in accordance with claim 6 wherein the thrust washer is formed as a clamp ring located on the armature shaft in an annular groove formed in the armature shaft.

8. (Previously Presented) The driving device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the tapered sliding member is formed basically U-shaped, where the armature shaft runs in the gap between two parallel legs defined by the U-shaped tapered sliding member.

9. (Previously Presented) The driving device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the housing possesses a collar-shaped area extending radially inward, the armature shaft running through the collar-shaped area and the tapered sliding member is supported on the collar-shaped area of the housing.

10. (Previously Presented) The driving device in accordance with claim 9 wherein the surface of the collar-shaped area supporting the tapered sliding member having a bevel matching a bevel on a surface of the tapered sliding member, the bevel on the surface of the tapered sliding member being supported in the collar-shaped area.

11. (Presently Presented) A driving device for a windshield wiper assembly of a motor vehicle comprising:

a housing;
an electric motor located in the housing connected with a rotating armature shaft having a first end portion and a second end portion;
a gear unit located in the housing with a worm located on an intermediate portion of the armature shaft;
a support bearing supporting one end of the armature shaft at the housing; and

an axial thrust generating device located on an opposite end of the armature shaft from the support bearing and possessing a tapered sliding member supported in the housing for movement in the radial direction relative to the armature shaft and supported against the armature shaft so that axial force can be applied to the armature shaft in the direction of the support bearing by moving the tapered sliding member, wherein a displacing force can be applied to the tapered sliding member by means of a spring element.

12. (Previously Presented) The driving device in accordance with claim 11 wherein the spring element is constructed as a helical spring.

13. (Previously Presented) The driving device in accordance with claim 11 wherein the spring element is constructed as a leaf spring.

14. (Previously Presented) The driving device in accordance with claim 11 wherein the spring element is constructed as a rubber spring.

15. (Previously Presented) The driving device in accordance with claim 11 wherein the spring element is constructed as a plastic spring.

16. (Previously Presented) A driving device for a windshield wiper assembly of a motor vehicle comprising:

a rotating armature having an outwardly extending shaft with first and second end portions external of the armature;

a support bearing located on the first end portion of the shaft;

a roller bearing mechanism operably connected to the second end portion of the shaft, the roller bearing mechanism having a rotatable inner race operably connected to the shaft on one side, an outer stationary race, and a plurality of ball bearings positioned between the inner and outer races; and

an axial thrust generating device having a tapered sliding member supported for movement in a radial direction relative to the shaft and supported at an opposite end of the shaft from the support bearing so that axial force can be applied to the shaft through the roller bearing mechanism in the direction of the support bearing by moving the tapered sliding member radially.

17. (Previously Presented) The driving device of claim 16, wherein the support bearing is a rounded surface integrally formed on the first end of the shaft.

18. (Previously Presented) The driving device of claim 16, wherein the support bearing is a single ball bearing operably engaged with the first end of the shaft.

19. (Previously Presented) The driving device of claim 16, wherein the tapered sliding member is biased radially inward relative to the shaft with a biasing member.

20. (Previously Presented) The driving device of claim 16 further comprising:

a worm gear supported on the shaft between the exposed first and second end portions, the roller bearing located between the worm gear and the armature and the support bearing located on an outer end of the shaft.

21. (New) The driving device in accordance with claim 11, wherein the armature shaft is supported in a roller bearing with an inner race located on the armature shaft and an outer race located in one of a gear housing and in the motor housing.